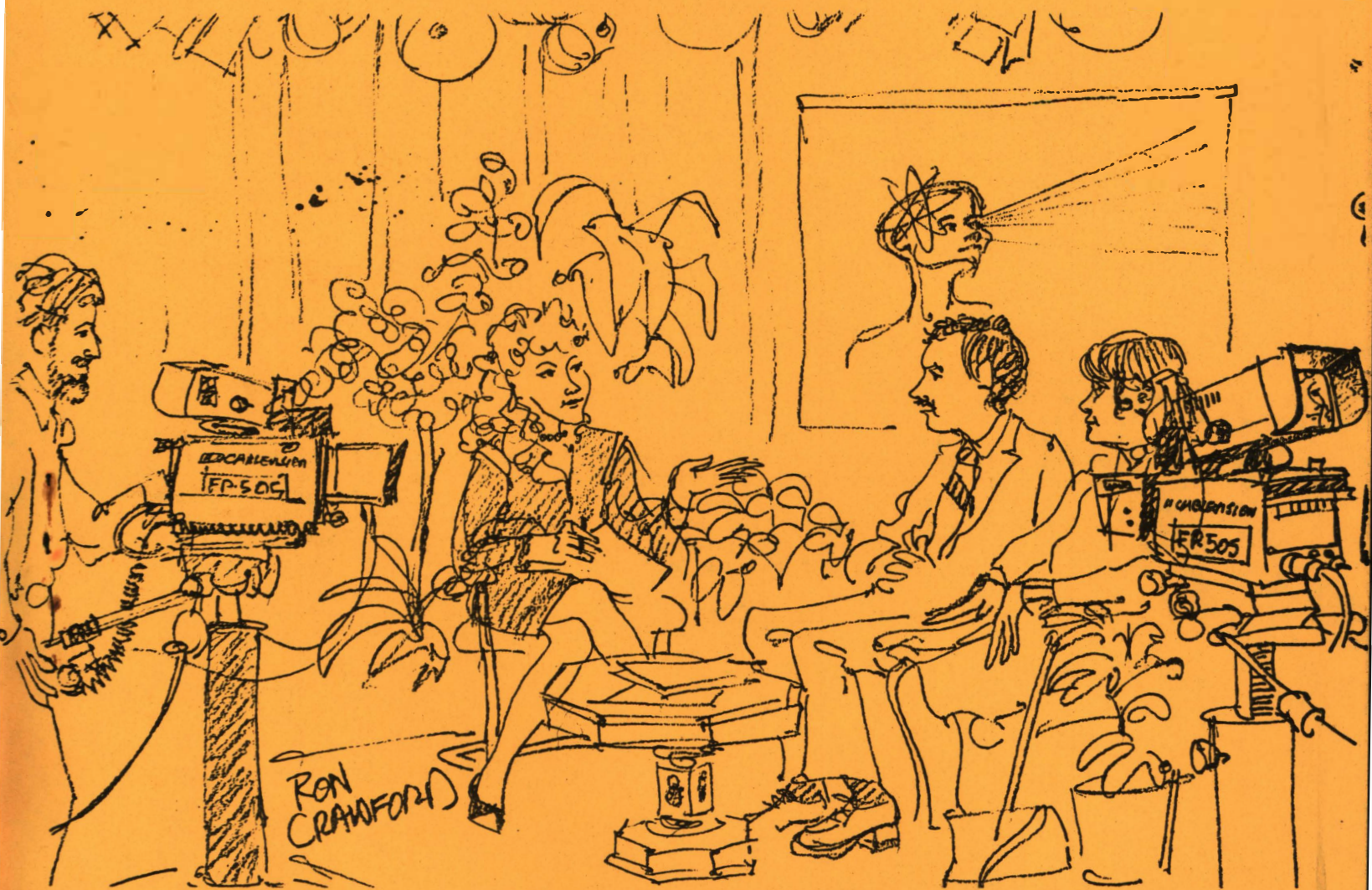


Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



Volume 13

Number 2



June 1994





Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The **Ghost Research Society** is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

Regular memberships are \$12.00 per year and include three issues of the Ghost Trackers Newsletter, GRS button, membership card, discounts to GRS sponsored events and tours, FREE photo analysis service and discounts on new and used books with FREE finder service available. Send wants! **Sustaining Memberships** are \$17.00 and include the above and the opportunity of helping with ghost research and attending field excursions (Midwest members only and subject to interview) at least twice a year. **Contributing Memberships** are \$22.00 and besides the above receive a free newspaper clipping service for your particular state (or country) sent on an irregular basis with your subscription. Multi-year, Patron and Lifetime Memberships are also available. If interested in those, please request further information.

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Editors page:

The official By-Laws of the GRS are now available to all members who request them. In an attempt to save on postal charges, these will only be mailed to those who write for a copy and include a large #10 legal size SASE with \$.52 as postage. If you are a State Coordinator, Area Research Director or Field Investigator, these By-Laws are now in your hands with this newsletter. The By-Laws, simply stated, are the rules and regulations for the GRS. I believe that every organization needs some rules to follow and while not many, they are specific and necessary. From time to time, these By-Laws will be revised as needed.

I wish to thank Rev. Speaker Gerald Polley, Andy Jarett, John Anderson, Lucy Solis, F.S. Miller and Bill Fuller for all the wonderful clippings you sent my way. Specific thanks also go out to Dan Susnara for the videotape he dubbed for me, Barbara McMenemin for the book, Susie Thompson for the book "Photographing The Invisible", Heidi Skopes for the strange paranormal photographs, Stanley Suho for his constant electronic expertise and more recently for the building and donating of a Geiger counter and Andy Jarett for the book "Time: The Ultimate Energy" and the vast loads of used computer software which he recently donated. Thanks to all, the donations are much appreciated!

Since the last edition, we have added 10 new members and have received renewals from 8. Welcome to the new and welcome back to the old!

There are still some members who are sending their renewal checks made out in the improper fashion. As I've mentioned many times in the past, all checks or money orders must be made payable to **Dale Kaczmarek** and not GRS, Ghost Trackers Newsletter, etc. In the near future this policy may be changing, but for the present all checks must have Dale Kaczmarek as the payee. We cannot and will not accept checks made out in any other fashion in the future. Those checks or money orders improperly filled out will be returned to sender. The GRS does not at present have an account set up for the GRS or Ghost Trackers Newsletter and must cash those checks made out in that way at a local currency exchange where a check cashing fee is charged thus robbing the GRS of much needed revenue. I hope you can understand our situation.

Tom Perrott of the Ghost Club in England has recently made me an Honorary Life Member of the Ghost Club with full benefits. This is a very great honor for me and I wish to thank Mr. Perrott for this appointment! Thanks Tom!! It was good to hear your voice during our recent telephone conversation.

Robert Stoebe is the most recent Sustaining Member of the GRS.

The newsletter of the quarter is Psychic News from England. The only weekly paranormal publication of it's kind. Subscriptions are \$60.00 per year and mail to: Psychic Press Ltd., 2 Tavistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SE, United Kingdom.

Ghost Research Society

This past April the GRS had a Special Investigation staged at That Steak Joynt, 1610 N. Wells in Chicago. Eleven members of the GRS and Janet Davis from WLS-TV (Channel 7) and a cameraman stayed the overnight in this most haunted restaurant; scene of most inexplicable phenomena.

At the time of this writing (late April) information and pictures were still flowing in from that evening. We had set up outposts and a command center plus a few roamers and many did experience something extraordinary sometime throughout the stake-out.

Employed were several pieces of specially built equipment such as a Geiger counter and a Negative Ion detector. Also used were infrared detection devices and a Gauss meter to detect slight deviations of electromagnetic fields and there were plenty of those throughout the night. Much of the equipment was built and donated by Stanley Suho of Bridgeview, Illinois.

Other equipment included camcorders, 35mm cameras loaded with 400 ASA color slide film, 400 ASA black and white infrared film and 400 ASA black and white Tri-X film which is very sensitive to the ultraviolet end of the spectrum. Portable tape recorders and magnetic compasses were also used with varying degrees of success.

This investigation was televised during the 10pm news broadcast on WLS-TV and will probably receive other attention as well.

Of the verified results thus far include an electromagnetic burst on a camcorder mounted at the top of the stairs at exactly the same time an electromagnetic anomaly was occurring several feet away and downstairs. At the beginning of the second monitoring video located at the top of the stairs, a high-pitched whine was heard followed by two guttural groans of a extremely high quality! A few pictures submitted to me so far might indicate something of a paranormal nature insofar as no flash was used in the taking of those pictures.

Much paperwork and possible paranormal encounters still need to be looked into before this investigation can be considered closed. In the upcoming months another possible Special Investigation might be scheduled for yet another alleged haunted restaurant in Chicago. Details and information at present is sketchy.



The Musings Of a Ghosthunter

By

Tom Perrott

A paucity of good cases of haunting over the past few months, although it has deprived me of paranormal news worth reporting, has nevertheless provided me with the opportunity of reviewing and reassessing the world of Ghosts and Hauntings in general, knowing full well that new and fresh looks at old beliefs can often prove beneficial.

As a Life Member of both the Folklore Society and of the Society for Psychical Research, I am given the choice of approaching this very controversial subject through the eyes of both an historian and a scientist, and like so many of us in a purely amateur capacity in both cases. This means that I am blissfully free of many of the orthodox prejudices so often religiously held by members of the academic establishment.

Whilst it would be deeply satisfying to be able to prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that a case one has personally investigated can be proven conclusively to have been of a paranormal nature, thereby giving members of the orthodoxy the ground for many sleepless nights, it is also satisfying be able to regard these phenomena from an historical approach, and to try and find out whether they are the awakenings of folk memories which would have been otherwise long forgotten and lost.

We are lucky in this country in that our history extends over many centuries and sometimes in taking a circumspective view of our ghost stories, many instances of near-forgotten traditions based on our past history might well be revealed.

Prehistoric barrows and tumuli excavated in areas known for their historical artifacts, have often uncovered headless skeletons in their burial chambers. Could they have been the victims of certain decapitation rituals, for the human head was revered by our Celtic ancestors, and could they have started the legends of hauntings by headless specters. Do the occasional sightings, both audio and visual of Roman legions marching across the ridges of Flowers Barrow in the county of Dorset and in the cellar of the famous Treasurer's House in the ancient city of York, symbolize actual hauntings hundreds of years ago, and does the alleged sound of the ill-fated Lawrence of Arabia's high-powered motor bike in the lanes around his former home, indicate that an actual incident is being replayed for posterity, or is it a sign that that doughty warrior is some miraculous way survived his bodily death, and wished to make present day people aware of that fact.

The efforts of the genuine ghost-hunting historian are often hampered by certain commercial interests who invent stories of

hauntings "for the benefit of the tourists, who will believe anything!" (I quote) On the other hand who knows but that some of the ghost stories we now believe to have been traditional might also have been invented by medieval commercial interests, for the benefit of pilgrims visiting such hallowed sites as the tomb of St. Thomas Beckett at Canterbury, or the cherished tomb of St. Swithun at Winchester.

Perhaps instead of conducting vigils in draughty places and straining one's ears to hear the smallest creak on the stairs, we should spend more time studying our history and make every effort to separate fact from fiction, because if the traditional legends have historical origins, the facts could often be confirmed in contemporary records.

It is so tempting in the world of the paranormal to jump to supernatural conclusions before thoroughly weighing up the pros and cons of the matters under investigation.

Submitted by:

Tom Perrott, 93 The Avenue, Muswell Hill, London N10 2QG, United Kingdom and Area Research Director in England.

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ENIGMAS is published five times a year by Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI). This magazine regularly features articles on all aspects of the paranormal including UFOs, poltergeists, huntings, spiritualism, life after death, etc, etc.

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The Ghost of Edgar Allen Poe Walks Baltimore

By

Richard Senate

The tragic life of America's first internationally know poet ended at the age of 40 wandering the streets delirious and mad. He died one week later on the night of October 7, 1849. He was buried in the cemetery of Westminster Church next to the body of his young wife. But, they say that on nights when the moon is full his ghost rises from the grave and wanders the streets and cemetery. His long haired form shuffles through the lanes and through the weed infested graves still clutching his bottle of spirits, his eyes wide and blood-shot. The old church yard was once on the edge of town but now it stands surrounded by tall skyscrapers. The little church stands as a relic of another time. Poe is in good company and a number of Baltimore's greats rest near the 'master of the macabre'.

If tragedy is the cause of ghosts to wander the night it should be no surprise that Poe haunts the little brick church. He was born 'in a suitcase' as the son of two poor actors in Boston in the year 1809. Orphaned in 1812 he was taken in by a Mr. John Allen and later he added his foster father's name to his own as a gesture of respect for the man who gave him a home, but never adopted him. The young Poe showed promise and was sent to private schools; entering the University of Virginia at the age of 17. In disgrace over heavy gambling debts he was forced to withdraw from the university. He enlisted in the Army and published his first poems. They were published anonymously. In 1830 he entered West Point. During his months at the academy there is a story that reflects his disdain for regulations. An order was posted stating that boots and gloves must be worn at roll call each morning. The next morning he reported at roll call wearing only boots and gloves. He was dismissed as a troublemaker the next year.

Years later, when he had landed a job at a magazine, he married his 14 year old cousin, Virginia, and moved in with her mother. His output of stories and poems reached its zenith with the publication of such masterpieces as "The Raven", "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Cask of Amontillado".

After eleven years of marriage, his young wife died, sending the poet into a dark dreary mourning. He attempted suicide, drank to excess, and began a number of tragic love affairs. In the last two years of his life he produced only four poems. Traveling by train to New York he vanished only to turn up, deranged, on the streets of Baltimore.

A number of mysteries exist about the death of Poe and what really happened in those last days of his existence. Many believe that he fell victim to the use of powerful drugs and liquor. He may well have stopped in Baltimore to visit the grave of his wife and in a fit of grief began his last drinking spree that ended in insanity and death. Another genius left to self-destruct. The ghost of Poe is one of several who haunt the old church yard.

A Civil War general is said to wander the graveyard still in pain over all the fine young men he ordered into certain death in some of the battles of that American tragedy. Another ghost is that of a crying child rumored to have been buried alive by mistake and still sobbing through the vaults and tombs. The ghosts are so well known that groups frequently wait, hoping to catch a fleeting glance of a sheeted specter. Will the ghost of Edgar Allen Poe ever find rest? If it is up to the would-be ghost hunters and tourists the answer must be - nevermore!

Submitted by: Richard Senate, 422 Staunton St., Camarillo, CA. 93010.

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Little Ghosts

By

Daphne Plowman

It is very sad when a child dies, and even sadder to think of a little "lost spirit". There are however, many reports of ghosts of children, and often they seem attracted to other children, now living in what apparently they still feel is their home. Three recent investigations have involved "little ghosts", in two of them there are children living in the house today, who could possibly be attracting those ostensible "spirit children". In one case, Mark, one of the three children living in the house, appears to be playing and interacting with children and their toys which the adults cannot see.

The sound of a ball bouncing in Mark's bedroom was reported, and later heard by myself and another investigator. There was no one in the bedroom. Mark, aged 3, was screaming at night and cried on occasions through the day, as though he was tired of playing but the "children" would not go away. We told him to wave at them and say "good-bye", just as though they were ordinary visitors, and this seemed to help a bit. I eventually invited a sensitive along to see if he could pick up any impressions in the house. Now I am quite cruel to such people, and I gave him practically no information other than the number of people in the home, and we picked him up and drove him to a vast council estate ourselves. I had also warned the family not to give any information until the chap had had a chance to wander round and see what he could find out. This is my usual procedure, and we follow up with a general discussion.

In this case the sensitive came downstairs, and smiling he told us that the house was full of kids, "spirit children", who were much older than Mark, perhaps about 7 to 9 years old, and they had brought along their toys as well. Now this may sound extraordinary to many people, and you may now be thinking that I am too gullible to investigate such cases. Perhaps I am, but we had this small child obviously seeing something, and interacting with something that he and the sensitive could see and feel, but we could not. Later, his brother aged 18 months, also started to interact in the same way. We were lucky to have considerable knowledge of the history of the house, and it seems as though there have not been any children living there in the past. Were those gate-crashers from the spirit world, or is there another better explanation?

Early last year we were asked to investigate the ghost of a little girl in a large house built at the turn of the century near Lanark. The house is now run as a hotel, but soon after it was

built, Annie aged 7, the daughter of the first owner was killed in a riding accident on the grounds. Her playroom, known as "The dolls room", is now the hotel's chef's room, in the old nursery flat at the top of the building. The chef, and several members of the staff have seen and felt the little girl's presence both on this floor, and also on the stairs. We heard of a receptionist who had a fright while typing at the desk at the foot of this rather grand staircase. She was frozen to the spot, as she felt the presence on the stairs behind her. On the opposite wall from the bannisters, (hand rails), is a huge mirror over an enormous fireplace. Did the little girl crouch down and look at her reflection in the mirror, through the gaps in the bannisters? There is only room for a child to do this.

We saw Annie's portrait painted in oils when she was 3, we were surprised to see a very mature little face with a very determined expression for such a young child. We also saw the little family cemetery on the grounds where she is buried along side other children of the family who died in infancy. Her parents were also buried there later. It is all overgrown, and the writing on the gravestones has almost gone. We used dowsing to find Annie's grave and think we located it. We were accompanied by the young chef, who we felt, was almost obsessed by the story of Annie. Could he be helping the other staff members to see and feel her presence? There has been no evidence of the little ghost interacting with the staff, and perhaps it is just like an old film being replayed to a receptive audience.

One of the saddest little ghost stories was told to me by a member a few years ago. A lady asked a young medium to help her as she thought her bedroom was haunted. She was sure she could hear a child whimpering, and the sounds of a dreadful cough coming from the corner of the room from diphtheria. When he died, he said he was afraid to go towards the light, and he was not heard again. A lovely fairy tale? Perhaps, but have you got a better hypothesis?

We have recently had a report of a case in a 200 year old house in the borders. We are told that there are two young girls in the house aged 5 and 17. Recently the 5 year old has been seeing a little ghost. It now seems that the 17 year old girl saw the same figure when she was the same age. I will tell you more about this case at a later date when I have visited the house. I know that young children are often said to have imaginary friends, but in my opinion, in some cases, there is strong evidence for the *spirit children* hypothesis being more applicable.

Submitted by: Daphne Plowman, Secretary of the Scottish Society For Psychical Research, 131 Stirling Dr., Bishopbriggs, Glasgow, G64 3AX. (Reprinted with permission from Enigimas, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, Scotland FK10 2TT)

Non-Seance Encounters With The Maryville, Missouri Ghost

By

Maurice Schwalm

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It has been rumored in psychic circles since the 1950's that Northwestern Missouri State University at Maryville, Missouri had a haunted dormitory. But only recently has any documentation materialized. The Summer of 1991 issue of The Alumni Magazine carries a cover story on Roberta Hall, the dormitory in question. The building was erected in 1923. Its history was totally routine until an explosive event occurred on April 28, 1951. The building was almost totally destroyed by the results of a utility gas tank explosion a mere 100 feet east of the building. The tank itself was hurled towards the building. The flames were visible 70 miles away. There were 20 casualties. Four were critically injured. Later, on November 29, 1952, one died after a major struggle to live and continue her class work. This was Roberta Steel for whom the dormitory is presently named.

From there on, the history of Roberta Hall is largely the history of its haunting by Roberta Steel. The article lists the various forms of events that began soon after such as lights, radios and TVs turned on by themselves, water faucets and doors with animation, locked windows found open and her photo over the fireplace of the lounge found on the floor on each anniversary of her death. The Delta Zeta sorority tells of a member who went to their meeting room in the basement only to find the door locked. But inside someone was playing the piano. When she knocked, the music stopped, but no one ever emerged. A member of Alpha Sigma Alpha also had an experience in her chapter room. She fell asleep and was shaken awake by an unseen presence that has also turned off lights she knew were left on. Tami Tomblin had a more interactive experience. The volume went down on the radio she was listening to. Her roommate said, "OK, Roberta, turn the radio back up." The volume immediately went back up. With that, Tami got up and left not only the room but the building as well and found quarters elsewhere. An ungrateful response to a cooperative presence! Tami should have tried the standard hot iron burn method of barring the presence from her room. It was standard practice in the dormitory to make a burn mark at the doorway pointed toward the door to discourage Roberta's visits. It worked. But the Residential Life Office discouraged that approach without recommending an alternative.

Schwalm interviewed seven recent residents of the hall. All had had experiences. One felt she might have been pushed by another resident the others were quite convinced that it was Roberta. Miss A.N. saw her dance in circles in the center of her room after apparently trying to get in bed with her. Her roommate saw it too. Then Roberta extended her hand towards her and she screamed and, as could be expected, the apparition disappeared. Too bad really. Roberta probably just wanted her to try automatic writing. As far as could be determined, in all those generations of students, no one had attempted a seance or used a Ouija board.

Submitted by:

Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, KS. 66103-0522.



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Personal Encounters

As a child I lived in a single yellow-bricked house on Main Street in Hellertown, Pennsylvania. Our family lived there for about 12 years. My mother experienced frightening encounters with ghosts, as did I. One day a minister's wife visited us and told us to leave because the feelings of evil were so overwhelming.

Among the incidents to occur included the time my mother nearly leaped from her bedroom window, the strange death of the family pet, and two close brushes with death on my part.

Eventually I departed for the U.S. Army (journalist-broadcaster) and moved into a barracks room in Pirmasens, West Germany. While residing in that particular room I experienced three particularly terrifying events involving denizens of the spirit world.

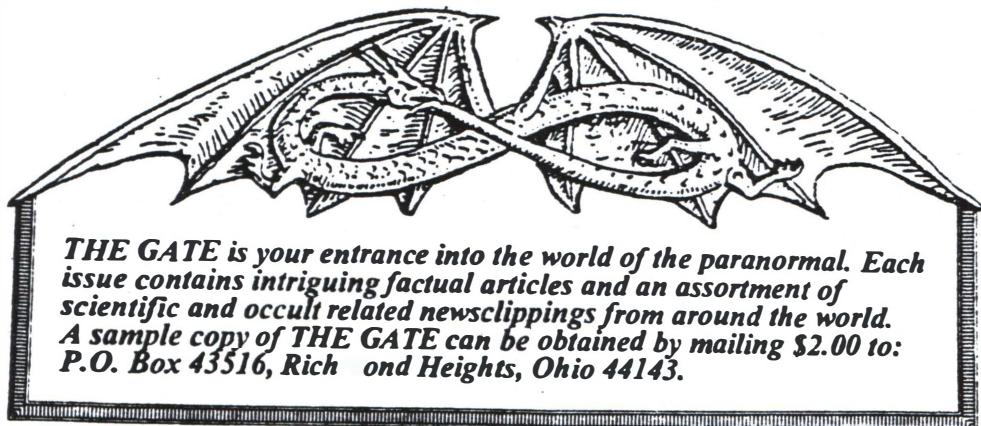
A ghostly lion's head, a malevolent presence in my wall locker, and a heavy disembodied breathing noise woke me on three separate nights. Each time I commanded them to leave in the name of Jesus and they obeyed.

I didn't experience anything paranormal in an other barracks room, although I lived in three others. The same thing happened with the other residences our family dwelt in.

Today another family lives in the yellow brick house on Main Street. Although no one's experienced anything supernatural, the family experienced a divorce, the death of the mother at a young age and many other unfortunate incidents.

I believe the spirit world includes good and evil spirits as well as earth-bound spirits of human beings. I also believe we have the power over them if we have the proper knowledge and follow the proper procedures!

Submitted by: Michele D. Fehr, GRS member from Hellertown, Pennsylvania.



Strange Events Disturb Sauchie Household

By

Malcolm Robinson

A revaluation of Scotland's most famous poltergeist event.

The biggest poltergeist case in the annals of Scottish strange phenomena, occurred in the village of Sauchie, around four miles from where I currently stay, back in 1960 the events of which I'll detail in a moment. Since it was indeed a momentous case, in which I often wondered what happened to the little girl involved. Did the classmates of the girl still remember the events? Well in 1987 I undertook to find out, and I spoke with a few of Virginia Campbell's classmates who informed me that they had witnessed strange phenomena in the classroom. However, when I tried to interview the aunt of the girl involved, the door was slammed firmly in my face, (the first time that this has ever happened to me in all my time as an investigator). Somewhat disheartened, I foolishly abandoned all plans to keep searching for further people involved. However, I recently felt the challenge rise in me again, and with added vigor, I again set off in pursuit of classmates of Virginia Campbell.

But first let me take you the reader, a trip down paranormal lane, we now find ourselves back in November 1960. Virginia Campbell aged 11, has come over from Donegal in Ireland to Sauchie in Scotland to live for a short time with her aunt and uncle. Leaving behind her friends and a pet dog who had recently died, she finds herself in a new environment, a village called Sauchie near the town of Alloa in Central Scotland. Education plays a big part in anyone's life, and Virginia found herself in a new school, (Criagbank Primary School). However, she soon made friends and quickly settled down to a new life far removed from what she was used to.

Before I present my updates on this story, let me give the events as they were recorded by my local newspaper, The Alloa Journal. For this I to delve into the microfilm archives at the Alloa Library, boy what a trip! It was like going back in time, well in a sense it was. A full afternoon was spent in the library going through page after page of microfilm. The following, are extracts from the Alloa Journal of December 2, 1960, in part it reads...."Just over a week ago strange things began to happen to Virginia. Heavy pieces of furniture were seen to move when she entered a room, doors opened when she approached them, and then were found difficult to shut. Worried and anxious, Virginia's

brother asked the Rev. T.W. Lund to try and help, and Dr. H.W. Nisbet of Tillicoultry who attends the family, was called in. Both men have been greatly impressed with what they have been told, and with what they themselves have seen.

"Their concern for the well being of Virginia and her family has increased during the past week because of the effect which gossip and publicity are having upon them. Before she came to Scotland, Virginia lost a pet dog of which she was very fond of, and a little girlfriend died. Both of these occurrences upset her very much. One night when sitting on the edge of Virginia's bed, Mrs. Campbell was roughly pushed off, and as she stood watching, she saw the blankets and sheets rising and falling above Virginia, while the child made little moaning sounds like someone in pain"... The Alloa Journal in this very large article, goes on at length to state that Rev. Lund and Dr. Nisbet refused to make any public statements or comments regarding this case. As the days wore on, further and more worrying strange events occurred within the Campbell household. The National Press got wind of the story, and soon the village of Sauchie was awash with reporters. The Alloa Journal in this 2nd of December 1960 article goes on...."Mr. James Henderson, Secretary of the Alloa Spiritualist Church said, 'In my opinion, this little girl has certain unusual psychic qualities, and I am convinced that some person who has passed on, is trying to communicate through her. I believe that a responsible medium should be taken to see the little girl, for such a person could certainly help her. The medium might be able to take over from Virginia, the pressure which is being put upon her from the other side, and so bring relief to her. I am convinced that this little girl, if properly looked after spiritually, might be able to help many hundreds of people as the late Helen Duncan did (a famous Scottish psychic medium'."

From the Alloa Journal's sister paper, The Alloa Advertiser, I take the following quotes...."Dr. Nisbet said, 'Virginia is not responsible for what has happened. The child is innocent. What has taken place was not conjured by the child herself, an outside agent is responsible. Believe me, something unfortunate has been going on in that house. The girl was hysterical all the time the phenomena were appearing. We decided then to try sedation. Virginia was given mild tranquilizers to quiet her. If the phenomena were being conjured by her own imagination, they would no longer appear if her brain was dulled. But even though the brain was not working normally, the phenomena still appeared".....

The Advertiser story goes on to inform its readers that Virginia was moved to another house in the town of Dollar but sadly, the strange events followed her, and soon after she returned back to Sauchie. Not only were these strange events occurring in Virginia's home in Sauchie, but they followed her to school, and these particular events I'll cover shortly. This case was becoming bigger and bigger every day. The Campbell family friends, neighbors and anyone who knew young Virginia, were constantly hounded by the press. The strain on the Campbell family was beginning to tell and the protection of young Virginia was utmost

on their minds. Meantime, the events intensified. From The Alloa Journal of 16th December 1960, I take the following quotes...."Two Tillicoultry doctors used a tape recording of sound phenomena which had been heard during the recent psychic illness of little Virginia Campbell, in the BBC Scottish Home Service program Scope On Tuesday. The sounds in themselves were not terrifying, but when a child's voice started screaming 'Mummy, mummy', that happened when Virginia saw the lid of the linen basket starting to open, the doctors explained that it was then that listeners realized that something unusual was happening.

"Mr. MacDonald, Reverend of St. George's West Church in Edinburgh, described the sounds and movements witnessed, and he considered that there were two explanations, and he favored the explanation that the phenomena were caused by some 'lower forms of intelligence'"..... SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) are currently trying to obtain not only the audio recordings made at that time, but also the piece of cine footage which allegedly shows some phenomena occurring within the home.

1994 A Revaluation.

So there we have it, a very interesting case, which is still to this day talked about in the towns and villages in Clackmannanshire. As I mentioned at the beginning of this article, I had always wanted to find out more about this case and to speak with those concerned and to inform the readers of Enigmas, about this monumental case. At this point in time, SPI's Helen Walters and I, were working together on a haunting in the town of Kirkcaldy. Our local paper, The Alloa Advertiser, interviewed both Helen and I regarding the Kirkcaldy case. And it was whilst being interviewed by the paper, that I made the plea for any person or persons who knew Virginia Campbell, or were in the same class as her, to get in touch with me. The story made front page headlines and soon after I received a telephone call from a local lady who although wasn't in Virginia's class, was very friendly with the teacher. This lady gave me the telephone number of the teacher who took Virginia's class, and I now present some notes taken from my telephone call to the teacher, a Mrs. Margaret Davidson, formally known as Miss Margaret Stewart.

Virginia's School Teacher Recollects.

...."Virginia was a shy withdrawn girl, but very pleasant. She wasn't really forthcoming but was normal in every other way and she was good at her lessons. I had never really heard the word 'Poltergeist' before, indeed I thought it was a name for some form of medicine! That's how naive I was to the word. The first time I became aware of something strange was when I had given the class an essay to do. The class was quiet, and all the children had their heads down bent over their jotters busily writing away. In 1960 we still had the old school desk which had a lid top. Anyway, I looked over at Virginia, and noticed that she was sitting with both hands pressed firmly down on the top of her desk lid. I rose from my chair and walked over to Virginia. I then was surprised to

see the desk lid rise and fall with Virginia trying her best to keep the lid shut with her hands.

"At this point a child in front of Virginia rose to take her jotter over to my desk, no sooner had she left her seat, then her desk rose a few inches off the floor on its 4 legs! I then explained to the class that I would be back in a few minutes, and during this time I went to see the school Headmaster, a Mr. Peter Hill. I said to him that there was something funny going on in my classroom, and explained to him of what I just saw. Mr. Hill said that he had 'heard talk' of strange things going on in the Campbell household. He then asked to see Virginia and said to me to explain to Virginia's classmates that Virginia may be going home for a few days as she is feeling unwell, and that there might be talk from others of ghosts centered around her. They were not to believe this, they were just rumors. This is what he more or less told me to say.

"Anyway I went back to the classroom, summoned Virginia over, and told her that the headmaster wanted to talk to her. As Virginia left the room, I found that I could not shut the door behind her, I had to summon help from three of the school children to help me push the door shut. I remember saying to the class, 'It must be very windy today!' Virginia was not distressed at this time. I then mentioned to the class of what the headmaster had told me to say, and I found that the class was very responsive and quite supportive.

The Vibrating Table!

Margaret goes on to explain....."The most unnerving thing that I experienced in the classroom, was when on one occasion I was sitting behind my large oak table, Virginia was standing at the other side of the table with her hands clasped firmly behind her back. Suddenly, a large blackboard pointer cane which was lying flat on my table, started to vibrate. At first it was vibrating slowly, then increased as the seconds wore on. I sat transfixed looking at this. Then the table, which was quite a heavy one, started to rise up very slowly into the air and also vibrate. I put my hands on the table and tried to push it back down but with no success. I was quite horrified. But it didn't stop there. The table continued to vibrate as it hovered a few inches off the floor. Then the table 'rotated 90 degrees', so that where I had moments before sat behind the long edge of the table, the table had rotated so that its narrow edge was now directly in front of my stomach. I looked up at Virginia, and saw that she was quite distressed, and I remember her saying....'Please Miss, I'm not doing that, honest I'm not.' I calmed her down. Just then, a bowl of bulbs shot straight across the table."

Margaret went on to discuss with me, other aspects of strange events within the classroom and informed me that objects, including school jotters, would rise up into the air and move away from the direction of where Virginia was at the time. These objects never seemed to move towards Virginia, they always moved in a direction away from her! Margaret also informed me that she had noticed that

strange things seemed to occur on a 28 day cycle!

Supportive classmates.

When events really got underway, the press hounded poor Virginia at school, but thankfully Virginia's classmates were very supportive to her. As the press-men gathered at the school gates, a girl classmate of Virginia who looked somewhat similar, put on Virginia's coat and rushed from the school going in a different direction from where Virginia lived. Hot in pursuit, were a merry band of pressmen. Margaret also mentioned to me, that she too was hounded by the press who continually pushed her for details. One funny story which Margaret recollects, was when on one occasion, a certain lady came up to her and said, "Can I touch you?" Who then proceeded to inform Margaret that she was one of God's chosen one's! Margaret even had a letter from a Witch Doctor from Africa who told her to, "pound down some bones and dance over them". This, she was told, might get rid of Virginia's ghosts!! The Church of Scotland arrived at Criagbank Primary School and held a service in the classroom, not an exorcism, Margaret explained. This however, failed to work, and the events continued in their absurdity. Margaret concluded our discussion on the phone by saying...."These events really did happen Mr. Robinson, I remember them as though it was yesterday. I'll never ever forget them."

A major witness recollects.

Through further research, I uncovered another major witness to the events in the Campbell home, a Mr. James Carruthers, (pseudonym) who at the time of the poltergeist event, was highly involved with the situation surrounding young Virginia, and was a regular attendee at the Campbell's home. He has asked that I do not divulge his name even though his name was regularly used in the press at the time. We at SPI respect this wish. Here is what Mr. Carruthers had to say to me over the phone...."On one occasion, I was in Virginia's bedroom with a number of other individuals. I was standing close to the bed, in which Virginia was lying in, she had the covers up to her chin. Suddenly I observed the covers making a 'rippling movement', from the bottom of the bed up to Virginia's chin. I am of the opinion that Virginia did not produce this effect, there was no movement below the covers, i.e. from her legs, just this peculiar 'rippling' effect running up and down the top bed-cover."

James continues...."Seconds later, I then observed the pillow next to Virginia which had been plumped up, suddenly take what appeared to be, the shape of a person's head. A clear indentation of the pillow was seen by myself and others in the room. Now during this time, strange knockings, bangings, scratching and what sounded like sawing noises, were coming from all over the room. You couldn't really pinpoint the exact sources of the noise. It was coming from everywhere! Most unusual, was the sound of what appeared to be like, a ping-pong ball constantly being bounced. Virginia was quite distressed by all this.

"On another occasion when the Church Of Scotland were in

attendance at the home, the noises, these bangings and rappings, intensified during the exorcism ceremony, they were really loud I remember, when church members started singing The Lord's My Shepherd."

James went on to say...."Someone mentioned at this time that animals, are to some degree psychic. So I decided to test this theory and took my pet dog along to the Campbell house and even though the same knockings and rappings could be heard in Virginia's bedroom, my dog was at no time disturbed by it all. My feelings on the matter are that these events have nothing to do with ghosts or spirits. I believe that the shift in environment from a rural farming community life in Ireland, leaving behind friends and such, and coming over to Scotland, was in a sense, a bit of a trauma, and that somehow this *suppressed emotion* externalized to objects and items close to Virginia."

Mr. Carruthers also stated to me during this phone call, that he remembers seeing a diary kept by the uncle of Virginia at that time, in which was an entry which stated that marks appeared and disappeared on Virginia's hands. At no time, Mr. Carruthers said, did I ever witness this.

I must admit that I had hoped for a better response to my request for people to contact me with information on this case from the readers of the Alloa Advertiser. But of course the fact could be that many people associated with the case, may have moved on, and any that are left, may be reluctant to talk! Back in 1987 when I first took on looking at this case again, I interviewed two former classmates of Virginia who more or less confirmed the events of which their teacher had experienced.

Closing summary.

So in conclusion then, I've enjoyed my reappraisal of Scotland's most famous poltergeist event. My telephone call to Virginia's former teacher was very illuminating. How I wished that I had been in Virginia's class at that time! Whether you subscribe to the belief that spirits were involved here, or, as Mr. Carruthers mentioned, that Virginia herself through *suppressed emotion* somehow caused these events to occur, is a matter of some debate. What is abundantly clear, is the fact that these events did occur and were witnessed by sound and very reliable high standing people in the community. The village of Sauchie was, as the Alloa Advertiser so aptly described, descended upon by swarms of the press like one of the plagues of Egypt.

And me, what do I believe? Well the state that the world's in right now, there must be countless millions suffering from *suppressed emotion*, and I don't think that strange events are occurring to them. Dr. Nisbet who attended Virginia, saw a heavy linen chest rise up from the floor, now it would take some *suppressed emotion* to cause that! *Suppressed emotion* or Poltergeist? We could argue about it all day. Whether its one or the other, or a combination of both, one thing's for sure, these things are so fascinating that they demand the utmost attention and

investigation. It's a pity that SPI weren't around during this particular case. Still, there's always the next one!

Submitted by and reprinted with permission by: Malcolm Robinson, SPI and Enigmas, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, Scotland FK10 2TT.

WEIRD N.J.

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WEIRD NEW JERSEY #4 is now available. Thanks to everyone for writing and letting me know that I'm not the only one who gets into all of this! Everyone who is on the mailing list for Issue #3 is receiving this postcard. If I don't hear from you, I'll assume you no longer wish to be on the mailing list. Each mailing list starts new with each issue. #4 is available for \$5 in Check or M/O made payable to Mark Scurman. Weird New Jersey, P.O. Box 1346, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003.

IN ISSUE #4:

- THE HUBCAP TREE
- THE NJ ALTAHA BUG
- STRANGE TUBES IN RED BANK
- LAWN OF 1000 MILK BOTTLES
- THE SANDYSTON CHAMBER
- GHOSTS, GHOSTS, GHOSTS
- THE BRAU KETTLE
- MIDGETVILLE

- THE CORRECTIONS MUSEUM
- INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS
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- OLD TOMBSTONES
- UNKNOWN WOMAN OF RAHWAY
- AUTO GRAVEYARDS
- UNPUBLISHED PHOTO OF THE HINDENBURG and dozens more!

Opinion Polls

Bader H. Altattan of Alomariyah, Kuwait writes, "To help improve the quality of your newsletter, please note these pointers: 1) It needs an index for the main articles of the newsletter in front of it, 2) it needs more ads that have to cover the most phenomenon of paranormal like hypnotism, Bigfoot, Loch Ness monster, spiritual mediumship, psychic surgery, Yoga, mind over matter, Third eye, thoughtography, etc., 3) Some ads can be done by participation with readers (individual ads), 4) it needs more pictures and photographs to explain and clarify each article, 5) Some articles can be done by participation with readers (individual articles), 6) you can put your newsletter emblem or the sign over both the front and back cover, 7) the back cover will be advantageous when applying the articles that will cover with next issue, 8) of course by adding some facts some like diseases, characters, food, sex, cars, movies, etc. plus some main telephone numbers that readers always in need like hospitals, police, fire, etc. will be useful and 9) putting some questions for readers in your newsletter and put the answers in next issue."

(Editors note: As long as this newsletter is called Ghost Trackers Newsletter, there will be no articles unrelated to those topics such as ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists or life after death.)

Jan Kleivo of Worth, Illinois comments, "I find it very informative and is excellent for good reading."

Catherine Conrad from Coquille, Oregon says, "When you send the xeroxed newspaper articles (Contributing membership) it might be helpful if you include the date of the articles publication as well as the newspaper of origin."

(Editors note: Most newspaper clippings for Contributing members have the newspaper of origin and dates. Some of the earlier articles might not have that information. Sorry, however all new articles retrieved from newspapers will have all relevant information.)

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Book Reviews

America's Restless Ghosts: Photographic Evidence of Life After Death by Hans Holzer (Longmeadow Press, 201 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT. 06904, 1993, hardcover, 176 pages, ISBN: 0-681-45231-5)

This book was originally published under the title of Psychic Photography: Threshold of a New Science quite a number of years ago. While this book might be the definitive writing on spirit photography, it has many major shortcomings. One of the most aggravating annoyances is the constant flow of misspelled words, obviously the responsible of proof-readers which let several dozen slip through, if it was even proof-read at all.

Secondly, since I have examined several hundred alleged spirit photographs myself in my capacity of President of the GRS, I find many of the so-called authentic photographs in this book to have a natural and non-paranormal explanation. For instance pictures numbered 13, 14, 42, 44 and 45 are very definitely movement of the camera due to very low light conditions and long exposure settings. #24, 26, 27, 28, and 32 are superimpositions or double-exposures of some manner. Photographs #22 and 23 are most likely flash bouncing off the living subject. Picture #19 is a simple design in the wallpaper and not a discarnate entity and photograph #77 was definitely taken with a flash even though the author says it wasn't. There are many tell-tale benchmarks for my pictorial comments.

Many of the spirit photographs have living people pictured in them and when those living people are not centered in the middle of the frame, it's always suspect when something paranormal then appears in the frame. It's almost as though the photographer must deliberately leave some extra room in the frame so he/she can add the paranormal extra in a later process. There are perhaps no more than a dozen good photographs in the entire book that bear looking into further. While I don't blame the author for the pictures, I do question his gullibility in jumping to conclusions.

Otherwise the book is entertaining. Rated a 4 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Civil War Ghost Stories & Legends by Nancy Roberts (University of South Carolina Press, 1992, softbound, 183 pages, ISBN: 0-87249-852-2)

The most recent book by Nancy Roberts, recent member of the GRS, and a very good addition to anyone's library. This book combines my interests in ghost stories and legends with the Civil War which I'm highly involved with. When the two meet in one collection, it definitely peaks my interest!

Several chapters touch on Civil War locations where I personally visited including Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Richmond and Harper's Ferry.

There does tend to be more legends than actual ghost stories

however but the book is very readable and coupled with Roberts writing style which has carried her through so many projects in the past, it more than makes up for any shortcomings. I especially enjoyed the chapters; *The Hauntings at Fort Monroe, Andersonville's Ghost Raiders, Ghost Frightens New Englanders* and *The Haunting of McRaven*.

A few impressional pictures highlight the stories within. Rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Supernatural Investigation by Michael Williams (Bossiney Books, St. Teath, Bodmin, Cornwall, United Kingdom, 1993, softbound, 96 pages, \$6.50 U.S., ISBN: 0948158-85-4)

A very nice collection of supernatural stories from the United Kingdom by Mr. Williams! His collection is superbly illustrated with pictures and drawings including one of the author himself and also Mr. Tom Perrott, Chairman of the Ghost Club and Area Research Director for the GRS.

Besides the ghostly tales within, Mr. Williams also touches on, Time Slips, ghostly music and voices, superstition, dreams, equine ghosts and explanations from other ghost researchers on their interpretation of what exactly a ghost is. Especially interesting is the chapter on the haunted Theater Royal in Bath which I had a chance to see while in England myself in 1987.

Another great addition to my collection of English ghost tales and one of many written by Mr. Williams. Very well done! Rated a 7 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

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World's Weirdest "True" Ghost Stories by John Beckett (Sterling Publishing Company, Inc., 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY. 10016, 1991, softbound, 96 pages, \$3.95, ISBN: 0-8069-8411-2)

Another small collection of ghost stories from around the world, many which have been told and retold in many other books and others which have been premiered here for the first time in my recollection.

Ones that have received their share of attention in other ghostly collections include the story of the English miner from Silverwood Colliery in Yorkshire who encountered the faceless miner in a lower level shaft, the march of the phantom Roman soldiers in the basement of the Treasurer's House in York, the Rosenheim, Germany poltergeist case and a few others.

However, quite a number of the stories are new to the reader including the story of Julia Buccola Peta from Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hillside, Illinois who was unearthed six years after her death and found in a perfect state of preservation and even another from the Chicago area, "Resurrection Mary", the hitchhiking ghost seen since 1931 or so.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

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**Ghosts, Ghouls & Goblins: Twilight Dwellers of Colorado** by MaryJoy Martin (Pruett Publishing Company, Boulder, Colorado, 1985, softcover, 167 pages, \$11.95, ISBN: 0-87108-686-7)


This regional collection of ghost stories was still in print as late as the end of 1993 and I ordered it directly from the publishers. As a great collector of regional ghost stories, I just had to have this book for my collection and I'm sure glad that I ordered it because it's the first book that I have found that goes into great detail concerning the phantom blue ghost lights often reported in Silver Cliff Cemetery in Colorado.

While always fascinated by these elusive spheres of light, the author nicely explains the early history of Silver Cliff and all the stories in the book as well as the paranormal occurrences and eye witnesses to the various events.

From ghost lights to phantom trains to headless highwaymen to the spectral associates of mining men this book deals with the early stories and later editions of the Rocky Mountain State in detail. The author should be complimented for her vigilance in digging up the stories and including a Bibliography in the back of the book for further reference.

Very good as regional ghost books go. Rated a 6 in a 1-10 scale.


Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek



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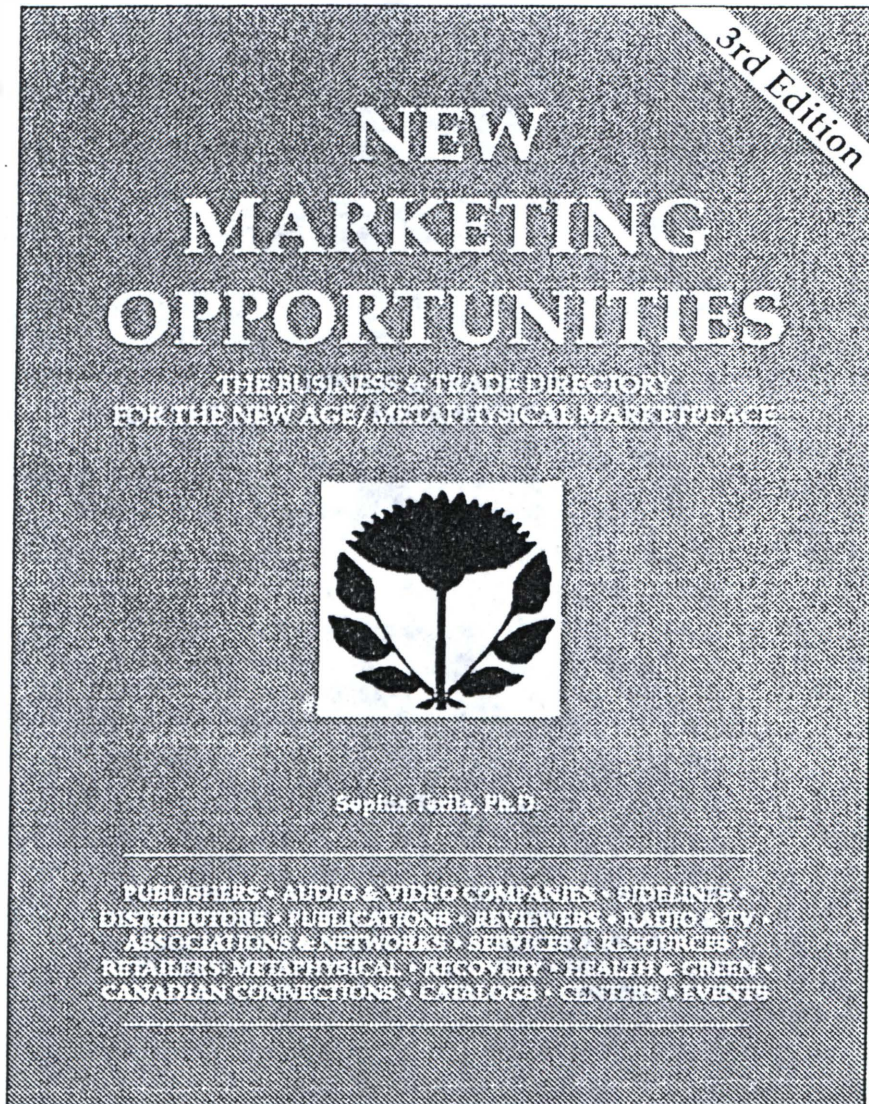
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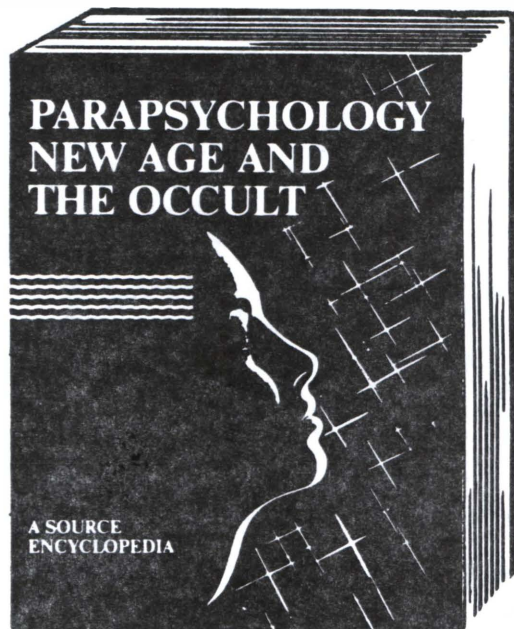
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